



Superfund Redevelopment Pilots

**Hiteman Leather Company
West Winfield, NY**

EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) is a nationally coordinated effort to facilitate the return of Superfund sites to productive use by selecting response actions consistent with anticipated use. The SRI Pilots are intended to help local governments enhance their involvement in the Superfund decision-making process by assisting EPA in predicting future land uses for Superfund sites. Under the Pilot Program, EPA will provide up to \$100,000 in financial assistance and/or services to local governments for specified activities. Applicants are offered several types of program assistance, including funding through a cooperative agreement, access to facilitation services, and/or the availability of personnel under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA).

BACKGROUND

EPA selected the Village of West Winfield, New York, for a Superfund Redevelopment Pilot. West Winfield is home to the 14-acre Hiteman Leather Company Superfund site. The property was used for leather tanning from 1820 to 1968 when the tannery closed. During this time the leather manufacturing process underwent several major changes. Originally, raw ingredients used during the tanning process were vegetable-based (tree barks) but later mineral-based products (chromium salts) and acid solutions were used. By 1964, 180,000 gallons of industrial wastewater was being discharged daily into three unlined lagoons adjacent to, and upslope of, the Unadilla River. In August 1959, a fish kill in the Unadilla River prompted an investigation by the New York State Pollution Unit. It concluded that toxic substances overflowing from the facility's lagoons had killed the fish. In January 1999, EPA added the site to its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup.

OBJECTIVES

The Village of West Winfield is planning to turn the site into a community center with a library, police sub-station, senior citizens center, and a fitness center. The village will use Pilot funds to design the center, which will pave the way for developing final construction plans and cost estimates. The village will also use funds to conduct community meetings and create information materials. In addition, the village will incorporate the educational aspects of the tannery's long history, and its cultural impact on the village, into its redevelopment plan.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Applicant Name: West Winfield, NY

Site Name: Hiteman Leather Company

Date of Selection: July 2000

Anticipated Award: Facilitation Services
(\$100,000)

Profile: The village will conduct community meetings to discuss turning the site into a new community center.

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